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Opportunity

ID 3628970 – DAERA - The Northern Ireland Countryside Survey

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

F02: Contract notice

Notice reference: 2022/S 000-004147

Published: 14 February 2022, 2:05pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Ballymiscaw

BELFAST

BT4 3SB

Email

SSDAdmin.CPD@finance-ni.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

Buyer's address

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

I.3) Communication

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted to the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

ID 3628970 – DAERA - The Northern Ireland Countryside Survey

Reference number

ID 3628970

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 90000000 - Sewage, refuse, cleaning and environmental services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

DAERA requires the Contractor to deliver a repeat of the NI Countryside Survey to provide a statistically robust assessment of land cover change and habitat condition in NI since the previous Countryside Survey in 2007. The Contractor will use this data to assess the outcomes of the current NI agri-environment scheme (EFS) in terms of habitat condition and establishment of green infrastructure. In addition, the Contractor will be required to record primary measurements of soil condition which influence soil function. This will form a baseline assessment of soil condition and function in NI Countryside Survey squares and will assess the linkages between soil condition and overlying vegetation. Where appropriate, this data may be used to feed into an assessment of land cover change at a UK scale in association with data being collected through the current Countryside Survey in GB.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £3,160,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 90700000 - Environmental services
- 90721700 - Endangered species protection services
- 90720000 - Environmental protection
- 90711500 - Environmental monitoring other than for construction
- 90714100 - Environmental information systems
- 90722000 - Environmental rehabilitation
- 90710000 - Environmental management
- 90721100 - Landscape protection services
- 71355000 - Surveying services
- 79311000 - Survey services
- 79311100 - Survey design services
- 79311300 - Survey analysis services
- 79330000 - Statistical services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

DAERA requires the Contractor to deliver a repeat of the NI Countryside Survey to provide a statistically robust assessment of land cover change and habitat condition in NI since the previous Countryside Survey in 2007. The Contractor will use this data to assess the outcomes of the current NI agri-environment scheme (EFS) in terms of habitat condition and establishment of green infrastructure. In addition, the Contractor will be required to record primary measurements of soil condition which influence soil function. This will form a baseline assessment of soil condition and function in NI Countryside Survey squares and will assess the linkages between soil condition and overlying vegetation. Where appropriate, this data may be used to feed into an assessment of land cover change at a UK scale in association with data being collected through the current Countryside Survey in GB.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.6) Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: £3,160,000

II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Duration in months

72

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The Contract is anticipated to commence in April 2022, for an initial period of 6 years with an optional extension period of 2 years following the end of the initial period.

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

The Contract is anticipated to commence in April 2022, for an initial period of 6 years with an optional extension period of 2 years following the end of the initial period.

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: Yes

Identification of the project

Rural Development Programme

II.2.14) Additional information

The figure in II.2.6 is the estimated contract value

Section III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information

III.1) Conditions for participation

III.1.2) Economic and financial standing

List and brief description of selection criteria

As per tender documents

III.1.3) Technical and professional ability

List and brief description of selection criteria

As per tender documents

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Open procedure

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.2) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate

Date

21 March 2022

Local time

3:00pm

IV.2.4) Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted

English

IV.2.6) Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain the tender

Tender must be valid until: 19 June 2022

IV.2.7) Conditions for opening of tenders

Date

21 March 2022

Local time

3:30pm

Information about authorised persons and opening procedure

Only CPD Procurement Staff with access to the project on eTendersNI

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.1) Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: No

VI.3) Additional information

Contract Monitoring. The successful contractor's performance on the contract will be regularly monitored in line with PGN 01/12. Contractors not delivering on contract requirements is a serious matter. It means the public purse is not getting what it is paying for. If a contractor fails to reach satisfactory levels of contract performance they will be given a specified time to improve. If, after the specified time, they still fail to reach satisfactory levels of contract performance, the matter will be escalated to senior management in CPD for further action. If this occurs and their performance still does not improve to satisfactory levels within the specified period, it may be regarded as an act of grave professional misconduct and they may be issued with a Certificate of Unsatisfactory Performance and the contract may be terminated. The issue of a Certificate of Unsatisfactory Performance will result in the contractor being excluded from all procurement competitions being undertaken by Centres of Procurement Expertise on behalf of bodies covered by the Northern Ireland

Procurement Policy for a period of twelve months from the date of issue of the certificate.” . .
 "The Authority expressly reserves the rights:. . (I). not to award any contract as a result of the procurement process commenced by publication of this notice;. (II). to make whatever changes it may see fit to the content and structure of the tendering Competition;. (III). to award (a) contract(s) in respect of any part(s) of the [services] covered by this notice; and. (IV). to award contract(s) in stages.. . and in no circumstances will the Authority be liable for any costs incurred by candidates."

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

The UK does not have any such bodies with responsibility for appeal/mediation procedures. Instead; any challenges are dealt with by the High Court, Commercial Division, to which proceedings may be issued regarding alleged breaches of the PCR 2015 as amended.

Belfast

Country

United Kingdom

VI.4.3) Review procedure

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures

CPD will comply with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) and, where appropriate, will incorporate a standstill period (i.e. a minimum of 10 calendar days) at the point information on the award of contract is communicated to tenderers. That notification will provide full information on the award decision. This provides time for the unsuccessful tenderers to challenge the award decision before the contract is entered into.